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Susceptibility of Plasmodium vivax infections to chloroquine

Resistance to chloroquine by *Plasmodium vivax* has been reported in some countries in Asis and South Americ [1]. Chloroquine-resistance by *plasmodium vivax* malaria has not been reported so far from Sri Lanka. The present study was conducted to investigate the

susceptiblility of *Plasmodium vivax* infections to chloroquine. Forty eitht patients admitted to the medical wards at NHSL, confirmed for having *Plasmodium vivax* infections by microscopy, were recruited for this study from January to April 2000. At the time of recruitment, information on patients past history of malaria, parasitaemia, clinical status and anti-malarial drugs received were obtained. Following informed consent to participate in this *in vivox* follow -up study, all patients were requested come to the laboratory on day 7,14, 21 and 28 for examination of blood films. All patients have received standard chloroquine and primaquine treatment at NHLS except for two patients who had received chloroquine only. Out of these 48 patients, 24% had come for the follow-up study only on week 1 and 2, while 62% and 91% had come for the follow up study by week 3 and 4 respectively. All these patients were negative for *Plasmodium vivax* asexual blood asexual blood stages as determined by the examination of thick and thin blood film taken during the follow-up period, except for the two patients who had not taken primaquine during the primary infection. Most of these patients were residents of Colombo distict, which is a malaria non-endemic area, except for 9 patients who were residents of endemic areas. Out of these 9 endemic patients, only 5 patients had been followed-up and they have stayed in Colombo till the end of the 4 week follow-up period. The data from this *in vivo* study shows the lack of recrudescent infections in these *P. vivas* infections studies here, indicting the susceptibility to choloroquine treatment.